

Amendments to the Claims:

15. (Currently Amended) A method of screening for a compound that inhibits the activity of a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, comprising the steps of:
- (a) culturing test cells which express a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and control cells that do not express the protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or fragment thereof in the presence of a ~~subject sample which contains at least one a~~ test compound;
 - (b) detecting the proliferation of the test cells and the control cells; and
 - (c) selecting the test compound that inhibits the proliferation of the test cells and not as compared to the proliferation detected in the control cells, ~~the absence of the subject sample~~
- 16 - 61. (Canceled)
62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the compound is a small interfering RNA (siRNA).
63. (New) A method of screening for a compound that inhibits the activity of a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, comprising the steps of:
- (a) culturing test cells which express a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 in the presence of the test compound which binds to the protein, or inhibits the expression of the protein;
 - (b) detecting proliferation of the test cells; and
 - (c) selecting the test compound that inhibits the proliferation of the test cells.
64. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein the test compound inhibiting the expression of the protein is a small interfering RNA (siRNA).
65. (New) A method of screening for a compound that inhibits the activity of a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, comprising the steps of:
- (a) culturing test cells which express a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and control cells that do not express the protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 in the presence of the test compound which binds to the protein, or inhibits the expression of the protein;
 - (b) detecting proliferation of the test cells and the control cells; and
 - (c) selecting the test compound that inhibits the proliferation of the test cells and not the control cells
66. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein the test compound inhibiting the expression of the protein is a small interfering RNA (siRNA).